

**The 23rd Annual
One Night Count
of people who are homeless in
King County, Washington**



**Prepared by the Education Committee of the
Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless in cooperation with the
Human Services Department of the City of Seattle.
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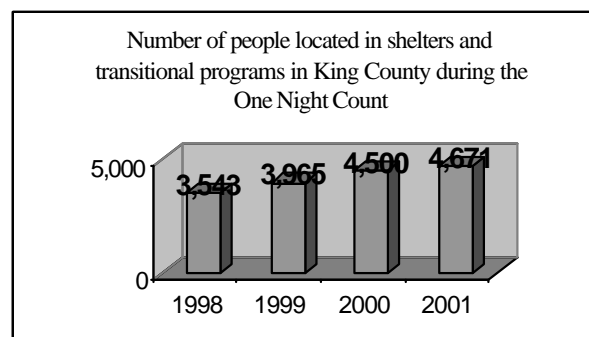
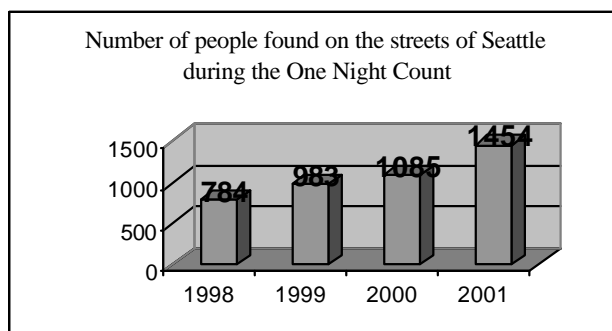
From the information provided during the 2001 One Night Count, it is estimated that, on any given night, there are 7,350 individuals in King County who are homeless.

The purpose of the One Night Count is not to pinpoint the exact number of people who are homeless, but rather to track trends over time and analyze demographic data. The One Night Count consists of the Street Count which is conducted in limited parts of Seattle, a comprehensive Survey of emergency shelter and transitional programs throughout King County, and an estimate of the number of people unsheltered in the balance of King County.

This year we estimate that 7,350 people are homeless on any given night, the 2000 One Night Count estimated that there were 6,500 homeless people, and the 1999 count estimated 5,900 homeless people. These numbers show that homelessness has been steadily increasing in King County. A substantial proportion of this growth is in the unsheltered population, which is an indicator that the emergency housing system is not able to keep up with the ever increasing demand for services.

Street Count and Survey Results

At 2:30 in the morning volunteers walked the streets of limited parts of Seattle identifying people without overnight shelter. Volunteers identified 1,454 unduplicated people, of this number 1,284 people were found in traditional count areas, and another 170 people were located in the new count areas of Squire Park and Ballard. In comparing similar count areas from 2000, the number of homeless individuals seen on the streets increased 16% in 2001.



On the night of the count 4,671 unduplicated homeless people were accessing shelters and transitional programs in Seattle and King County. It is important to note that this is a total number of people using available services and does not necessarily reflect actual need for services in our community. Of the people accessing services, 28% were under 12 years old, 8% were between 13 and 17 years old, 11% were between 18 and 25 years, 49% were between the ages of 26-59, and 4% were 60 years old or over.

The comprehensive report which follows provides current, unduplicated numbers relating to homeless individuals in King County. The data is gleaned from the 2001 One Night Count organized by Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless (SKCCH) on October 19, 2001.

Introduction

The One Night Count is comprised of a ‘street count’ as well as a survey of shelter and transitional housing programs conducted on the same night.

This report will provide the reader with a glimpse of the women, men and children whose homelessness resulted in their being in one of the following places on October 19, 2001:

- The streets of downtown Seattle and surrounding neighborhoods
- Emergency shelters throughout King County
- Transitional housing programs throughout King County

It is vital to review this data summary in light of its true claim - that is, a non-scientific estimate, to be used for shedding light on trends in homelessness in Seattle and the balance of King County.

History of the One Night Count

The One Night Count of homeless people in the Seattle/King County area has been conducted annually for the past 23 years.

The Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless (SKCCH), a partnership of not-for-profit and government agencies that collaborates to address the needs of homeless people, assumes oversight of this event which has 2 main components:

- the ‘street count’
- the shelter and transitional housing survey.

Street Count

The Seattle/King County homeless street count consists of a ‘moment in time’ unduplicated tally of people living ‘on the street’ in downtown and outlying neighborhoods in Seattle. It is led by Operation Nightwatch, an active member of SKCCH.

Because homeless people go to great length to protect themselves from view in an effort to survive another night, the street count does not reflect the exact number of people unsheltered in our city. Given this, the count is intended to foster an understanding of the patterns of survival for people who sleep in publicly accessible areas. The Street Count does not capture data about homeless people living in abandoned buildings, sleeping on private property, or people who have managed to find some security hidden within bushes under the freeway.

The coalition is planning to expand the count to limited areas within South King County in the future. Anecdotal evidence has shown that people are currently surviving unsheltered in a

variety of situations in the Balance of the County. These situations include people: under bridges in North Bend, in forested areas throughout the Snoqualmie Valley and along the White and Green Rivers in South King County; sleeping in cars at state parks in Issaquah, in business parking lots in South King County, living in barns in Northeast King County, or riding the bus all night long.

Shelter and Transitional Housing Survey

The annual One Night Count also includes a survey of Seattle/King County's sheltered homeless community. This component of the count is carried out with administrative support from the City of Seattle's Human Services Department, an active participant in SKCCH.

On the same night as the Street Count, the staff of homeless programs complete a survey which offers a profile of homeless people staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing, Safe Havens, as well as those utilizing motel voucher programs throughout King County on that particular night. The survey produces unduplicated data that serves to identify trends in service use and provision.

It should be noted that the information reported in the survey solely reflects the number of individuals and households receiving service at a targeted program at one particular point in time and does not reflect individuals in the homeless community who are not accessing services.

Neither the Street Count nor the Survey capture the hundreds of people throughout the county that are "couch-surfing," staying with friends or relatives for a few nights or weeks here and there. Nor does this effort seek to depict the people living in substandard housing, in trailers without running water or electricity in the more rural areas of the county, the many families that are secretly doubled or tripled up on a permanent basis in one unit, or the hundreds of people that are paying for motel rooms on a daily or weekly basis hoping to somehow save enough money for a permanent place of their own.

Data: One Night Count 2001

Street Count

This year's street count found a total of 1,454 people living on the streets of Seattle. This included: 1,284 people found in traditional count areas, and another 170 people in two new count areas.

In comparing the 2000 street count with the same geographical for 2001, we found that the number of homeless individuals seen on the streets this night increased 16% from 2000.

The following table indicates that the number of people living on the streets of Seattle has increased substantially over the past few years despite the rapid growth in the local economy which occurred until recently. Comparing like areas, the count increased over 60% between 1998 and 2001.

Individuals	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Men	718	515	451	420
Women	129	83	93	64
Unknown	528	433	417	297
Minor	79	54	22	3
Total	1454	1085	983	784

Trends

Homeless men continue to make up the greatest proportion of individuals counted at 78%, while women accounted for 14% of those found and minors were 8%. These percentages have remained relatively constant for four years.

Trends over time have suggested that neighborhood development, construction, police presence, laws, weather, and social service locations can impact where people stay. The large number of people counted in the new count areas of Ballard and Squire Park confirmed anecdotal evidence that homeless people are seeking refuge in the neighborhoods outside of downtown Seattle.

The number of children and teens found on the streets rose by approximately 30% from 2000. Due to the limitations of the Street Count it is impossible to truly know how many people found on the streets are ages 13-25.

The table below indicates that the places where homeless people were located on the night of the count have remained fairly consistent over the past few years:

Where people were found	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Benches	2%	2%	4%	4%
Parking garages	1%	0%	1%	1%
Car (est. 2)	22%	20%	16%	15%
Under road/bridges	15%	11%	15%	20%
Doorways	11%	13%	14%	13%
City Park	5%	3%	9%	9%
Greenbelt	3%	2%	5%	3%
Bus Stops	2%	5%	2%	3%
Alleys	6%	3%	5%	5%
Walking w/ no destination	17%	15%	n/a	n/a
Other	19%	25%	28%	29%

It should be noted that ‘car camping’ is a particularly difficult demographic to capture. Cars are often located in dark obscure places, with items placed over the windows for protection. Volunteers are instructed to mark two people per vehicle whenever there is *significant evidence that someone is actively using it as shelter*, although it is recognized that some cars may have more or less than that estimate.

The ‘walking’ category’ has been queried after past street counts, in relation to the assumption that a person who is walking is not necessarily homeless. Again, volunteers are given clear instructions to use the team’s best collective judgment in these circumstances, omitting those who seem to have a defined purpose other than homeless survival activities.

Volunteer counters talked about attempts that homeless people had made at creating their own shelters – one group of volunteers saw personal photographs next to such a structure made of rocks. These homeless ‘settlements’ appeared to be recently occupied but empty at that particular moment, so were not included in the count.

Tent City

On the night of the count, Tent City reported 72 men, 27 women, and 2 minors for a total of 101 homeless people who were living in their community. At the time of this publication, Tent Village has received a ‘reprieve’ of sorts from the City of Seattle Dept of Construction and Land Use. The agreement that they reached makes it possible for private land owners to host the encampment without facing fines from DCLU. While the encampment was technically located outside of the traditional count area on the night of the count, at several points during this year it was located within the count boundaries. Due to the significance of the population reported and the somewhat arbitrary nature of its’ location, it was determined that Tent City should be reported as part of the street count. The 2000 Street Count also included the Tent City community which at that time consisted of 111 people.

Sobering Center

The Dutch Shisler Sobering Center reported 54 homeless women and men at their facility on the night of the count. The Sobering Center provides a safe, clean, supervised place for intoxicated individuals to ‘sleep off’ the effects of alcohol and other drugs in a medically supervised environment.

Shelter and Transitional Housing Survey

On October 19, 2001 4,671 unduplicated homeless people were accessing shelters and transitional programs in Seattle and King County. The chart below summarizes the survey findings in comparison to previous years.

INDIVIDUALS	2001	2000	1999	1998
Couples with children	796	819	635	497
Couples without children	22	8	22	24
Adult women with children	1,339	1,406	1,236	876
Teen women (18 & under) w/child	30	36	45	44
Men with children	90	71	84	56
Single women	682	482	482	438
Single men	1,489	1,630	1,415	1,525
Minor alone	46	43	46	83
Unknown	20	5	0	0
Information not monitored	157	0	0	0
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	4,671	4,500	3,965	3,543

This year’s survey found a total of 3,047 households accessing services. This figure includes couples with no children, teen parents, single and dual parent households, and some extended family situations. This is an increase of approximately 230 households as compared to last year’s survey.

Survey response rate

The total number of programs that participated in the survey decreased from 195 programs in 2000 to 164 programs in 2001. The lower survey return rate is due to programs closing, agencies that failed to return their survey forms despite repeated follow-up contacts, and data errors that made it impossible to decipher who was utilizing a particular program. The decrease in response rate impacts the ability to compare program capacity. It also influences some of the demographic comparisons, particularly in the balance of county programs.

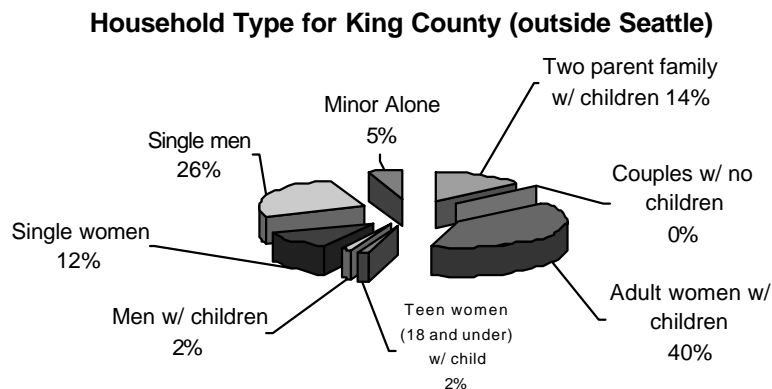
Number of programs reporting	2001	2000	1999	1998
Family shelters & transitional	58	80	63	46
Single adult shelters & transitional	60	71	65	34
Youth shelters & transitional	28	30	29	26
Voucher programs	18	14	15	9
Total	164	195	172	115

King County

On the night of the One Night Count there were 927 homeless individuals constituting 400 households living in emergency shelters or transitional programs in the balance of the County (outside of Seattle). This figure, based on surveys completed by 25 agencies in North, East and South King County is less than the 1,125 individuals (450 households) that were homeless during last year's 2000 survey. At first glance, it appears the number of homeless in the county has decreased 17.6%. While we wish this were the case, the decrease is more likely a reflection of the number of programs completing the survey this year (52), compared to those reporting in 2000 (64). Therefore, it's safe to assume that the reduction in homelessness is more a byproduct of fewer agencies reporting - not that there are fewer homeless people.

Of the 400 homeless households in East, North and South King County:

- 32% live in emergency shelter, 66% in transitional housing and 2% received a motel voucher.
- The largest household group is families with children (57%), and adult women with children account for 40% of these households.
- The next highest household group is single men (26%), while single women comprised only 12% of the East, North and South King County household population.



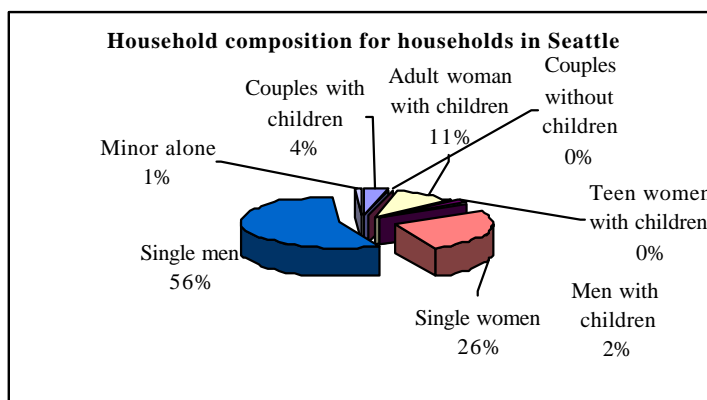
Though there are fewer single adult women homeless households in North, East and South King County, we believe this is more a result of there being fewer emergency shelter and transitional housing programs for single women, than it is an indicator of the actual number of homeless single women. Indeed, the 2002 Inventory of Homeless Units in Seattle/King County confirms this. There are roughly 65 facility-based shelter spaces available for single adult men in East and South King County, compared to 18 facility-based shelter spaces for single adult women.

Of particular importance, is the realization that South King County has only 9 shelter beds for single adult women needing emergency housing for reasons other than domestic violence or

pregnancy, while North King County has virtually no single adult shelter for either men or women.

Seattle

On the night of the count 3,744 individuals, who made up 2,647 households, were accessing shelters and transitional programs located in the City of Seattle. This number represents 80% of all the individuals surveyed. Although it is difficult to compare this number to previous year due to the lower survey return rate, we do know that the 2000 survey found 3,380 people in Seattle programs, and the 1999 survey found 3,035 people.



Income

People with limited financial resources are more vulnerable to becoming homeless, and for those that have already entered the homeless system, the climb to self-sufficiency takes even longer and is more arduous.

When low-income families pay more than 30% of their income in rent – it's usually at the expense of other basic needs like food, utilities and clothing. The lower a household's income, the more likely it is that they will spend a higher percentage on rent, and when rents rise, they have little recourse. Once homeless, families and individuals set about the task of rebuilding their lives with the help of emergency shelter and transitional housing staff, often trying to save for the costly expense of moving into a new apartment or home.

Household Income for total population				
	1998	1999	2000	2001
Zero income	28%	31%	28%	20%
Very low (30% MFI)	61%	61%	65%	76%
Low (50% MFI)	9%	7%	7%	4%
Low-moderate (80% MFI)	3%	1%	1%	0%
Moderate (100% MFI)	1%	1%	0%	0%
	102%	101%	101%	100%

According to the survey results, the number of people without an income has decreased however the number of people below 30% of the median family income has increased. This data shows that while people have some access to financial resources they are still unable to climb out of extreme poverty.

In the City of Seattle 97% of people report an income at or below 30% of the median family income. This number reflects a 4% increase in poverty when compared with the 2000 survey results which found 93% of people below 30% MFI. Taking into account people's source of income, the survey found a 3% decrease in the number of people employed who were utilizing programs within the city of Seattle.

In East, North and South King County, 92% of homeless households earn less than 30% of the median income (\$17,750 for a family of three). "...Yet for the 56,000 renter households in all of King County at this income level, there are only 32,475 units affordable including subsidized units (less than 500 of these are market-rate rentals), leaving a deficit of 23,223 units." (2001 King County Benchmark Report).

Source of Income

While the majority of homeless people do have an income, it's important to look at the source of their income. Once we do this, it's easy to understand why we have a homeless crisis throughout our nation, as these numbers closely mirror the country as a whole. The table below shows the primary source of income for homeless households.

Primary Source of Income	Seattle	East, North, & South King Co.
GAU	11%	8%
ADATSA	0%	2%
SSI	20%	8%
GA-S Pregnant Women	0%	1%
TANF	12%	26%
Employed	25%	34%
Unemployment	2%	4%
Other Income (VA disability, pension, SSA)	7%	2%
No Income	23%	16%
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS	100%	100%

**Percentages exclude unknown and not monitored.*

In looking at the total population, 27% of people reported employment as their primary source of income. This figure is particularly interesting given the fact that 96% of all people had an income below 30% of MFI.

These numbers are slightly different when we look at the balance of King county separate from the City of Seattle. Nearly 34% of people in balance of King County receive an income from employment -- indicating that homeless workers are employed in low-wage jobs struggling to make ends meet. This number is slightly lower in Seattle were 25% of people report income from employment.

Public benefits are by far the primary source of income for approximately half of all homeless households. For single adults that are temporarily unable to work due to a physical, mental or substance abuse issue, 9% receive General Assistance Unemployable (GAU) and 1% receive ADATSA (Alcohol and Drug Addiction Treatment and Support). The standard cash grant excluding food stamps and medical for a single person is \$339.00 per month.

Another 15% who meet federal disability requirements receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI). A single adult household will receive \$545.00 a month from the federal government, and up until this year, our state supplemented this income by providing an additional \$25.90.

When looking at all the survey data 14% of people receive Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, more commonly known as TANF or welfare. For a woman with 2 children, the standard monthly financial cash assistance (not including food stamps or medical) is \$546.00, and increases to \$642 for a family of four. It is interesting to note the large disparity between the percentage of women receiving TANF who are accessing balance of King county programs (26%) and the percentage of women accessing programs in the City of Seattle (12%).

Race/ethnicity

Survey data indicates that there are huge disparities between the racial composition of the general population and people utilizing homeless services. People of color are clearly over represented in the homeless community, with the exception of Asian/Pacific Islanders. This data is comparable to the One Night Count figures from 2000 and 1999. The table below shows the comparison of the racial composition of the population at-large verses people who are homeless. The percentages are calculated excluding unknowns and people who identified as multi-racial.

	General population in King County (including Seattle)	Homeless population in King County (including Seattle)
Caucasian	80%	40%
African American	5%	42%
Native American	1%	5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	10%	3%
Hispanic	3%	10%

We are finding that many of those identified as people of color, in essence reflect new arrivals, immigrants and refugees of Latino/Hispanic, African and Eastern European descent. As we continue to profile this moment in time we will want to reflect on what it tells us about the issues of ethnicity, culture and race overlaid by the complexities of a homelessness crisis.

The chart below provides a more detailed look at the race/ethnicity of people utilizing homeless programs. It should be noted that the category of multi-racial was added for the 2001 survey.

Race/Ethnicity for total population	1998	1999	2000	2001
American Indian or Alaska Native	4%	5%	6%	4%
Asian	1%	1%	2%	2%
African (Ethiopian, Nigerian, Kenya, etc.)	5%	10%	12%	11%
Black or African American	30%	29%	27%	29%
Hawaiian Native or Pacific Islander	2%	1%	2%	2%
Hispanic/Latino	10%	9%	11%	9%
White	43%	40%	37%	38%
Multi-Racial	n/a	n/a	n/a	4%
Other	4%	4%	4%	1%

Immigrant/refugee status & languages spoken

A total of 765 people were listed as having a limited English speaking ability. A three year comparison shows that this number has grown substantially in the past three years. In 1999 only 496 people indicated they were limited in English and in 2000 there were 674 people.

In an effort to capture the diverse cultures represented in homeless programs, this year's survey asked respondents to list the languages spoken in their programs. The most frequently cited languages were Spanish, Somali, and Russian. Other languages listed were: Vietnamese, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Cambodian, Eritrea, Bosnian, Oromo, Sudanese, Burundi-Swahili, Filipino, Tigrinian, French, Russian, Polish, Samoan, Amheric, Tigrnga, Arabic, Persian, Kenyan, Mien, Farsi, Hindi, American Sign Language, and Spanish Sign Language.

For the first time the One Night Count included a question about people's immigrant and refugee status. A total of 733 people indicated that they were an immigrant, refugee, or newly arrived to this country. This number is 16% of the total number of people located in homeless programs. According to the data, 80% (614) of the people that were listed as an immigrant, refugee, or newly arrived were located within Seattle.

The 2001 survey added several new questions, which provided us with additional information. These were optional questions, often captured in "Other." Not everyone responded. However, for those that did, we can fill in some details about ethnicity, culture and race. The survey found a broad representation of Africans particularly from Eastern Africa or the Horn of Africa. Individuals and families come from Somalia, Ethiopia, Tigrigna, and Eritrea with others from Kenya and West Africa. In addition the survey documented Hawaiian natives and Pacific Islanders from Tahitian, Fiji, Samoa, Guam, Tonga and Marui constitute 2% of this range.

It is speculative to identify people of Asian descent as immigrant and refugees. They may in essence be 1st or 2nd generation Asian Americans and not necessarily immigrants or refugees. The survey data is not able to capture this level of detail. The numbers for Asian/Asian Americans, however, have also incrementally been climbing upwards since 1998. Less is known about the immigrant and refugee status of people who identified as Hispanic/Latinos.

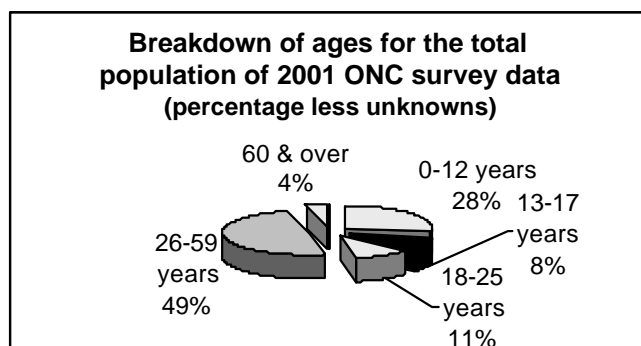
Age and gender

The survey results revealed that of the people accessing emergency shelters and transitional programs 53% were male and 47% were female. Gender is not divided as evenly when you examine the type of program being accessed on the night of the count. Half of all adult males were located in single adult shelters; while only 1/3 of adult woman were located in single adult shelters. In addition, adult women were far more likely than men to be staying in transitional programs for families.

The chart below reveals that the percentage of women and men accessing programs has been changing over time. Since 1998 the percentage of women has increased by 9%. It should be noted that survey results are limited by the types of programs in existence. Therefore it is difficult to know if this change reflects new programs targeting women or if it is the result of more women seeking services.

	1998	1999	2000	2001
Men	62%	57%	57%	53%
Women	38%	43%	43%	47%

An examination of the breakdown of ages shows an alarming statistic that 28% of people utilizing homeless services are children under the age of twelve. A total of 1,146 children were staying primarily in family shelters or transitional programs. In addition 339 people age 13-17 were accessing homeless services. A more detailed analysis of youth programs is included in this report. A three year comparison reveals that the percentage of children, youth/young adults, adults, and seniors has remained consistent over time.



The chart below offers an age comparison between the homeless in North, South and East King County with that of the City of Seattle.

Age	Percentage of East, North & South King (excluding Seattle)	Percentage for Seattle
0-5	25%	12%
6-12	18%	12%
13-17	10%	8%
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>31%</i>
18-25	12%	10%
26-59	35%	53%
60-84	0%	5%
85 and older	0	0
<i>Total Individuals</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100%</i>

As you can see:

- Children under the age of 17 make up 53% of the homeless population residing in shelters and transitional housing in King County outside Seattle – with the majority being less than 12 years old.
- In the City of Seattle people between the ages of 26-59 make up the largest age group representing 53% of the population served.

In the balance of county programs homeless males between the ages of 18-25 represent only 27% of the population while females of the same age group represent 72%. This is more than likely due to the fact that the majority of 18-25 year olds are young parenting woman, for which there are more shelter and transitional housing options in the county.

Factors Contributing to Homelessness

The 2001 One Night Count Survey indicates that the most frequently reported reasons for homelessness by households living in East, North and South King County, compared to households in Seattle are:

Factors Contributing to Homelessness	North, East & South King County	Seattle
Domestic Violence	16%	9%
Economic or Financial Loss	16%	14%
Family Crisis	15%	8%
Eviction/Displacement	14%	13%
Transient	5%	13%

*** These are duplicated numbers; more than 1 factor could be checked.*

Though reasons for the above differences are speculative, a few potential factors come to mind. Compared to Seattle, which has a higher percentage of single head of households, the balance of the county tends to house a higher percentage of households with children, which might account for the more frequent citing of domestic violence and family crisis. Likewise, transient populations are probably more inclined to head toward urban centers, such as Seattle -- where greater opportunities for work exist, where there's a larger supply of low-cost housing, easier

access to public transportation and services, and a stronger homeless system infrastructure. In addition, many of the suburban cities that fund emergency shelter and transitional housing often require that the majority of clients be residents of their city, thereby potentially reducing the number of transients served in the balance of the county.

Whether your living in Seattle, in unincorporated King County, or a suburban city, the reasons people are homeless tend to be similar: usually it's because people have limited financial resources as a result of low-wage jobs, receive public assistance benefits that don't cover the cost of market-rate housing, have difficulty finding housing that's affordable to their income, are fleeing domestic violence situations, have been evicted from their housing as a result of falling behind in rent, have medical, mental health, and substance abuse issues that prevent them from working, a criminal history background, language/cultural barriers, or in the case of youth....are homeless due to emotional and physical conflicts at home, or are former foster children with no where to go once they leave the foster care system. Each person and family has a unique story to tell about how they've become homeless, and it usually involves multiple factors.

Last Permanent Address

According to the One Night Count Survey half of all people utilizing shelters and transitional programs report Seattle as their last permanent address. This figure is down slightly when compared to the 2000 survey that found 56% of people listing Seattle as their last address. The chart below shows a four year comparison.

Last Permanent address	1998	1999	2000	2001
Seattle	52%	55%	56%	50%
North or East King County	10%	8%	8%	10%
South King County	11%	12%	10%	10%
Washington State (outside King County)	9%	6%	6%	9%
Out of State	19%	20%	19%	20%
Total	101%	101%	99%	99%

While 73% of people who are homeless in East, North and South King County indicate their last permanent address was in East, North or South King County, only 12% were from Washington State (outside of King County) or came from another state entirely. Comparatively, 33% of the homeless in Seattle indicated that their last permanent address was from another state or city outside of King County.

Amount of Time and Number of Episodes Homeless

Not all agencies monitor the amount of time a household is homeless. However, for those that do monitor this information, it's encouraging to see that the majority of households that are currently homeless have been homeless for less than one year, despite the enormous barriers they face.

In examining the data we found that over half of all people utilizing programs were homeless for less than 5 months. Furthermore 1/4th of all people were homeless for one month or less. The

survey also captured information on how many times a person had experienced homelessness. The data shows that 70% of people were homeless for the first time in at least two years.

Number of episodes of homelessness during the past two years for the total population				
	2001	2000	1999	1998
Only time in two years	70%	67%	70%	58%
Second time	19%	21%	19%	25%
Third time	6%	6%	6%	8%
Four times or more	4%	6%	5%	9%

- In Seattle 68% of people were homeless for the first time in at least two years.
- In East, North and South King County 65% report being homeless for 5 months or less and 17% for 12 months or longer.
- Compared to Seattle, 51% of people in King County report being homeless for 5 months or less and 31% for 12 months or longer, (though this represents 733 households out of a total of 2,647 households).

It is encouraging to see that 77% of households in King County outside of Seattle-- this is the only time they've experienced homelessness in the past two years; and for homeless households in Seattle, the figure is similar (68%). However, when looking at the figures for the number of homeless episodes during the past two years, it's disheartening to see that of the households that moved into permanent housing, the number of youth and young adults that reenter the homeless system do so at a higher rate than families with children and are a close second to single adults.

Disabilities

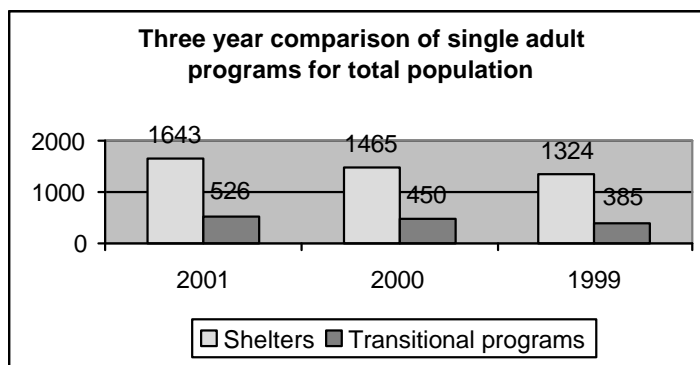
This year the survey allowed people to select more than one disability, thus it is difficult to compare the results to previous years. A total of 1,430 people reported at least one disability. This represents 32% of the total population, however many programs do not capture information about disabilities. There was a higher percentage of people reporting at least one disability in the City of Seattle (33%) than there was in the balance of the county (21%). It should be noted that people frequently selected more than one disability. Out of 1, 430 people there were 2,279 reported disabilities.

Number of reported disabilities for the total population (1,430 people reported 2,279 disabilities)	
HIV/AIDS	49
Mental Illness	587
Chemical Dependency	693
Developmental Disability	71
Dually Diagnosed	237
Physical Disability	316
Needing acute health care	69
Needing respite health care	21
Other	236
Total	2,279

In Seattle the most frequently cited disabilities were mental illness and chemical dependency. However, there is a striking difference between the types of disabilities identified by males and females. While the leading disability among the male population is alcohol/substance abuse (38%), the female population lists mental illness (31%) more often.

Highlight: Single Adults

On the night of the survey there were 2,169 single adults accessing emergency shelters or transitional programs in all of King County. Most of the single adult programs (95%) are located in the City of Seattle. And, the majority of people counted that night (76%) were in shelters versus transitional programs.



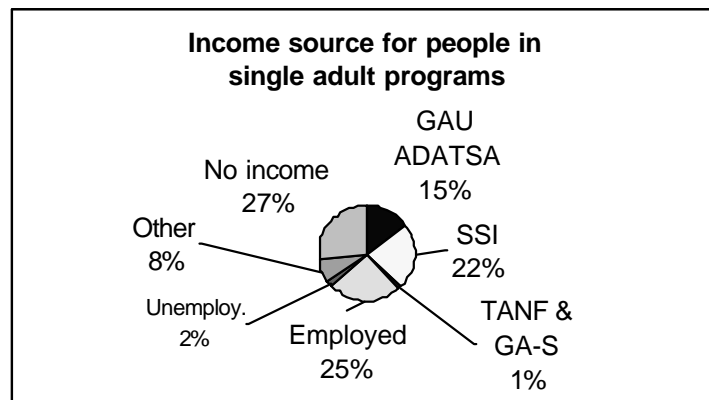
Of the people staying in single adult programs, 31% were female and 69% were male. The percentage of women has increased significantly when compared to last year's survey which had 19% women and 81% men in single adult programs.

Veterans

The survey shows that veterans are over-represented in single adult shelters. All together, veterans make up 10% of the homeless population utilizing services; and 7% of veterans are located in single adult shelters. The number and percentage of veterans served has remained consistent over time.

Income amount and source

The survey found that 97% of people utilizing single adult programs had an income below 30% of the median family income. This statistic is true despite the fact that 25% of people's primary source of income was from a paid job. Since 1999 the percentage of people with incomes below 30% MFI has increased by 6%. The chart below shows the breakdown of income source.



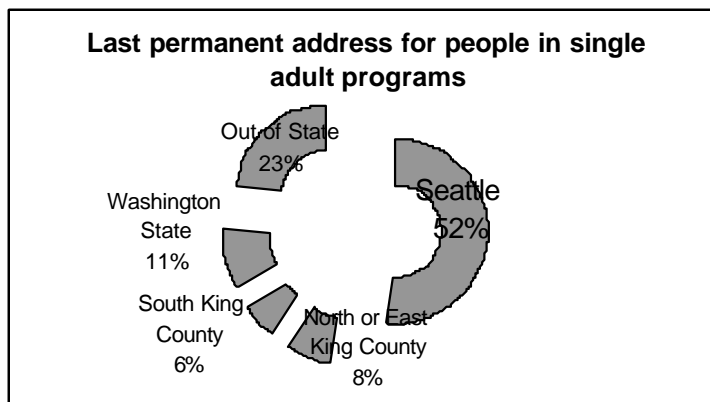
A total of 37% of people received some form of disability income. When compared to previous years, the percentage of people with no income has decreased for three consecutive years. The percentage of people employed has remained relatively consistent over three years. And, the percentage of people receiving SSI has increased.

Disabilities

This year people were allowed to report more than one disability, however not all programs track information about people's disabilities. The survey data showed 45% of the people using single adult programs had at least one disability. The most frequently cited disabilities were mental illness and chemical dependency, followed by physical disabilities. Due to the change in the survey this data can not be reliably compared to previous years.

Last permanent address

A total of 52% of people in single adult programs listed Seattle as their last permanent address. It should be noted that 95% of the single adult programs were located within the City of Seattle.



Highlight: Family programs

A total of 2,101 individuals were surveyed in family programs. This comprised 674 individuals in family shelters and 1,427 in transitional programs.

	2001	2000	1999
Family Shelters	674	705	697
Family Transitional Programs	1427	1511	1202
Totals	2,101	2,216	1,899

There were 53 family shelters and transitional housing programs reporting this year as compared with 80 in 2000 and 63 in 1999. The majority of programs reporting were located in the City of Seattle.

Family Composition

The individuals who made up the homeless families surveyed were members of 216 households (in family shelters) and 395 households (in transitional programs). The data indicated that the vast majority (46%) of homeless individuals in shelters were homeless adult women with children, followed by two parents with children (42%). This is similar to the transitional housing setting where 62% were adult women with children, and 33% were couples with children.

Race/ethnicity

The racial/ethnic identity of individuals who were staying in family programs on the night of the count shows a slight majority of individuals being African American (28%), followed by Caucasian (26%), and Afro-ethnic (20%). While the Hispanic/Latino population only represents 10% of the families in shelters and transitional programs, it is important to point out that this population has increased 66% in the last three years.

Race/Ethnicity	Family Shelter	Transitional Housing for Families
Asian	3	19
Pacific Islander	20	41
Afro-ethnic	49	385
African American	255	345
Latino/Hispanic	100	117
Native American	44	49
Caucasian	157	407
Multi-Racial	41	63
Other	3	1
Unknown	2	0
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	674	1427

Income

This year 93% of family households reported an income at or below 30% of MFI. This stark percentage coincides with the ‘reasons for homelessness’ given by the family households surveyed, which reports 30% of the total family households stating “primarily economic” as a reason for their homelessness.

TANF was the most frequently reported source of income for family households: 43% were TANF recipients in family shelters, with 45% in transitional housing. Within the shelters, 21% of family households reported an income from employment, while 34% of households in transitional programs had employment income.

The Homeless Families Committee of SKCCH notes that while issues such as limited shelter, healthcare, childcare and living wages are ongoing barriers for homeless families, the most outstanding concern that providers continue to voice is the lack of housing resources available to families.

Reason for Homelessness

This year survey participants were allowed to pick more than one reason, or factor that contributed to becoming homeless. As in past years, domestic violence/abuse, eviction/displacement, and economic reasons top the list of factors.

Reason for Homelessness for Family Programs

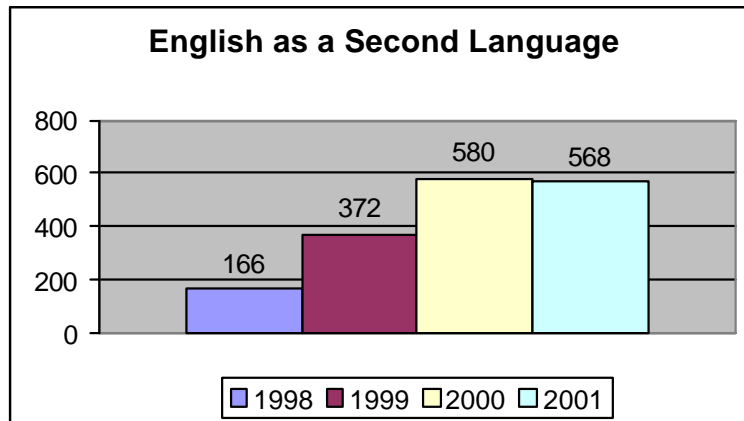
Experienced Abuse	92
Asked to leave home	14
Chose to leave home	58
Transient	39
Domestic Violence	208
Family Crisis	156
Runaway (minor alone)	4
Economic or financial loss	186
Eviction/displacement	200
Racism	45
Homophobia	18
Oppression	63
Other	54

Language Barriers

This is the first year that the survey has captured information around immigrant and refugee status. 122 individuals in shelters (18%), and 477 (33%) individuals in transitional programs identified as being either an immigrant or refugee.

The Homeless Families Committee of SKCCH is involved in an ongoing discussion relating to the growing number of refugee families who are in need of services. Refugee families are ‘the newer face of homelessness’ approaching providers with complex needs. These families’ are unique in their traumatic experiences with war, natural disaster and constant transition. Compounding this are unmet needs relating to health care, education, employment, and mental health care that often result in prolonged periods of homelessness. Language barriers are certainly a primary concern.

Since 1998 the number of families with English as a second language has grown dramatically within transitional and shelter programs. This year 113 families in shelters, and 455 families in transitional programs reported English as a second language. It is difficult to conclude whether this indicates a growing trend in the homeless population or if it is a direct result of new programs being established to target this typically under-served group.



It should be noted that there is still a need for more interpreter/translator services in our community. Without such services, homeless people have a difficult time accessing services, while providers struggle to provide quality services.

Large Families

While the survey does not specifically detail how many people are in each household many family providers are seeing an increase in larger families.

One provider shared with us, “We have found that there is an increase in Afro-ethnic families. As always we have difficulty moving large families into shelters. Lack of low-income housing, particularly for large families is still a problem. Many families have not been able to find long-term transitional or permanent housing. Also there is increased need for intensive case management services. Most families have multiple problems with many barriers to getting into permanent housing. Most cannot make a transition into permanent housing without considerable assistance.”

There are few agencies in our community that are able to provide housing for large families. Most agencies don’t have units that are able to accommodate large families. In addition, agencies that provide motel vouchers are using two and three rooms to house one large family.

Large families that are ready to move into permanent housing are faced with finding a house or apartment that will accommodate the whole family, and then the economic burden of coming up with rent and deposit. Large families may also face discrimination from some landlords who are concerned about having many children in one unit.

Highlight: Unattached Youth and Young Adults

Homeless, unattached youth and young adults are folks 13-25 who are not living with their families. This group includes teens and young adult mothers with their children. This year’s

survey found a total of 229 people under the age of 25 staying in programs designated as youth and young adult shelters or transitional housing.

The youth reflected here are only those who were accessing services on the night of October 19, 2001. Many more youth have not yet engaged in housing services of any kind. Because of this, it is difficult to make generalizations about the entire homeless youth population.

Utilization

This is the second year we have tracked youth shelters and transitional housing separately and thus can begin to do some comparisons. It is important to note that there have been no changes in the number of beds available between 2000 and 2001.

Number of Youth Residing in...	Number of Individuals		Change from 2000-2001
	2000	2001	
Shelters in Seattle	28	39	39% Increase
Transitional Housing in Seattle	116	119	3% Increase
Shelters in King County Outside of Seattle	12	18	50% Increase
Transitional Housing in King County Outside of Seattle	53	53	No Change
Total	209	229	10% Increase

This year's overall shelter and transitional housing utilization rate was 65%, which is an improvement over last year. Under-utilization of shelter services for homeless youth and young adults has been an ongoing issue in the service community. In an ongoing effort to increase utilization of shelters and increase the safety of homeless youth, programs have been stepping up their outreach efforts and analyzing their programs to make them more accessible for youth. Overall, shelter and transitional housing utilization rates increased in 2001. Please see the table below for the detail.

	Utilization	
	2000	2001
Shelters in Seattle	38%	46%
Transitional Housing in Seattle	64%	73%
Shelters in King County Outside of Seattle	50%	67%
Transitional Housing in King County Outside of Seattle	66%	76%
Total	55%	65%

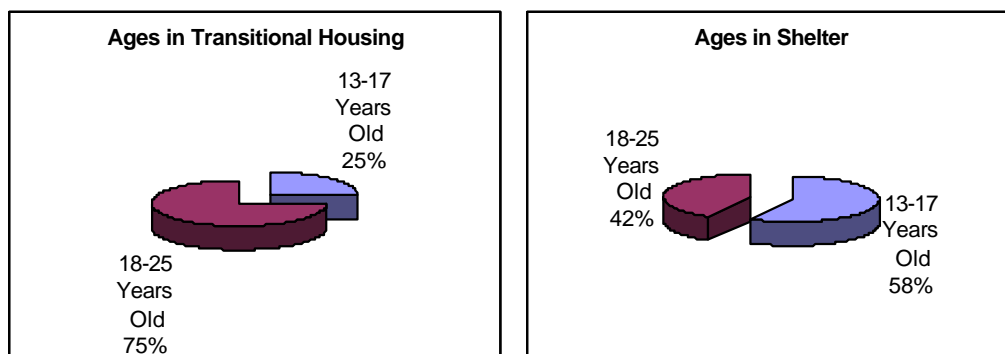
The Youth and Young Adult Committee of the Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless and the Street Youth Task Force have some preliminary findings about why youth do not access shelters and transitional programs. One of the clearest connections seems to be the requirement imposed by the Becca Bill for shelters to report runaways. This is effective in getting youth with stable homes to return home; however those youth who come from abusive environments have been scared away from shelters out of fear of having to return to that environment or of being picked up by police and placed in locked Crisis Residential Centers. Since this bill was enacted, youth shelter occupancy has dropped significantly. Other reasons identified by shelter staff

include program limitations due to state licensing requirements, funding issues, a high level of structure present in programs that does not work for some of the more street involved youth, and staff issues such as adequate training. Youth input for lack of shelter usage is still forthcoming.

The increased utilization rate is encouraging and is the result of significant conscious effort on the part of providers to attract youth who would otherwise be on the streets. Providers and other stakeholders are continuing to work on the issue of utilization through program and system analysis and are looking forward to seeing more youth out of the cold and into programs that can lead to stable living situations.

Ages

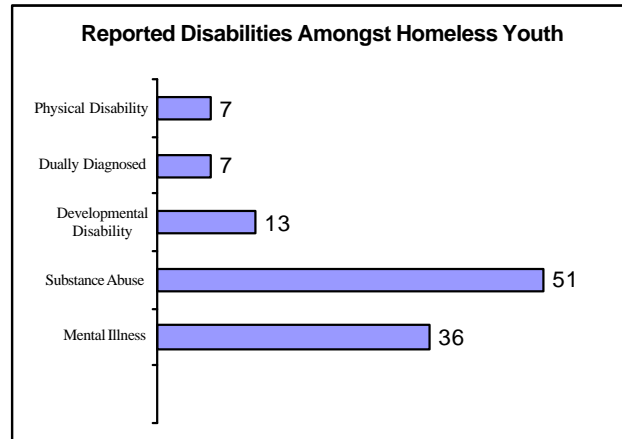
There were a total of 180 households counted in youth programs, including 42 young women with children. There are currently no youth or young adult programs that serve single fathers with children. The following charts show the breakdown for age in both shelters and transitional housing.



It is also important to note that there were 46 children under 5 staying with their mothers in youth or young adult transitional housing. Additionally, there were two youth under the age of 13 in the shelters. Due to shelter regulations, these youth were likely 11 or 12 years old.

Disabilities

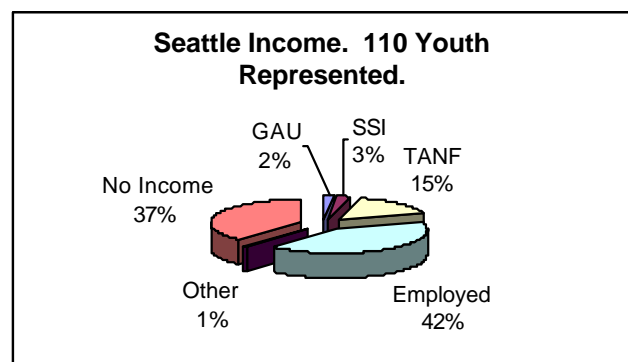
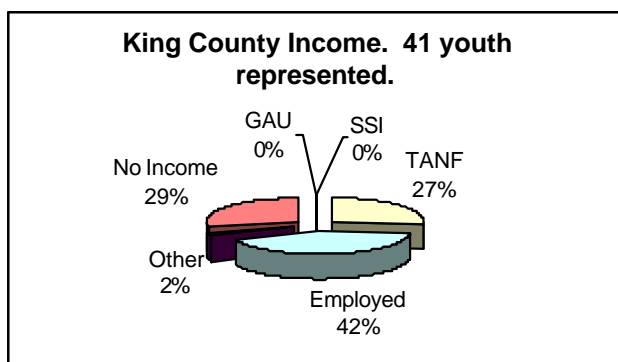
About 55% of youth and young adults served on October 19, 2001 were reported to have at least one disability. The majority of disabilities identified were substance abuse and mental illness, both of which have been high service priority gaps for providers. The current economic climate in combination with state regulations around mental health and substance abuse has made it difficult to get services for homeless youth. One significant exception has been the leadership at the youth section of the state's Department of Alcohol and Substance Abuse. The leadership has responded to the provider community's request and has placed substance abuse counselors in a few transitional housing programs as a pilot project.



It is important to note that dually diagnosed refers to youth with both substance abuse and mental illness. You may notice that HIV and AIDS are not included on the chart. None of the programs reported any HIV+ youth or young adults. There are many potential reasons for this including underreporting due to the question not being asked, youth not disclosing, or it may actually be that there were no HIV+ youth or young adults using programs that night. A significant piece of related information is that there was a pilot study in 2001 run by Seattle/King County Public Health that tested homeless youth with a new oral HIV test. The study found no positive tests for the entire year. This is very good news indeed and is a testament to the good work being done by HIV prevention workers.

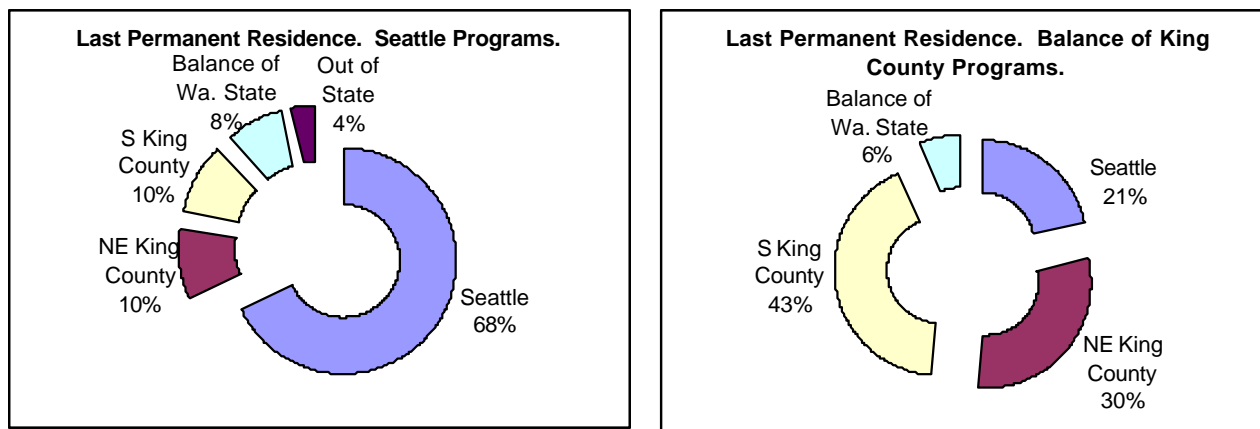
Income and Employment

Of those youth whose income was reported by the programs, 93% were under 30% MFI (32% at no income and 61% at 1-30% MFI). 36% of the youth were employed at the time of survey. Last year, youth and young adults using programs in the City of Seattle were more likely to be employed than those in the balance of King County; this year the likelihood of employment is about the same for both geographic areas. The percentage of youth employed in programs has actually reduced in Seattle. There are many potential reasons for this and youth themselves have reported increased difficulty in accessing employment. Below is the breakout for those youth who had some sort of income. The figures do not include those youth whose income was unknown.



Last Permanent Address

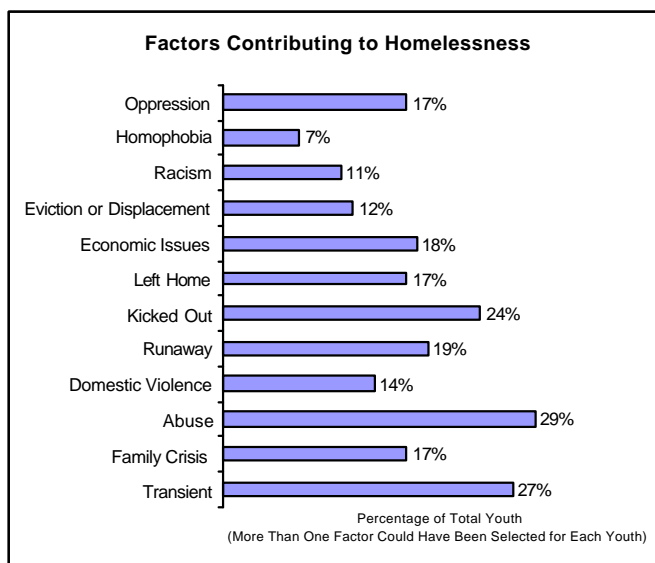
One question that frequently gets asked about homeless youth and young adults is where they are coming from. The survey results show that the vast majority of youth in shelter and transitional programs come from Seattle and King County.



Factors Contributing to Homelessness

The reasons for youth and young adult homelessness are multiple and complex. There are a lot of assumptions made about why youth are on the streets and what waits for them back with their families. Our survey found that the biggest reason for youth homelessness was abuse. There were other factors as well including transience or chronic homelessness, and youth being asked to leave home. In the survey, providers could choose more than one option which is why the percentage totals in the following add to more than 100%.

Youth being kick out of their house for being Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender is still a common occurrence. Though homophobia is the lowest reason for homelessness indicated by the survey, youth were still 10 times more likely than their single adult counterparts to be homeless because of homophobia.

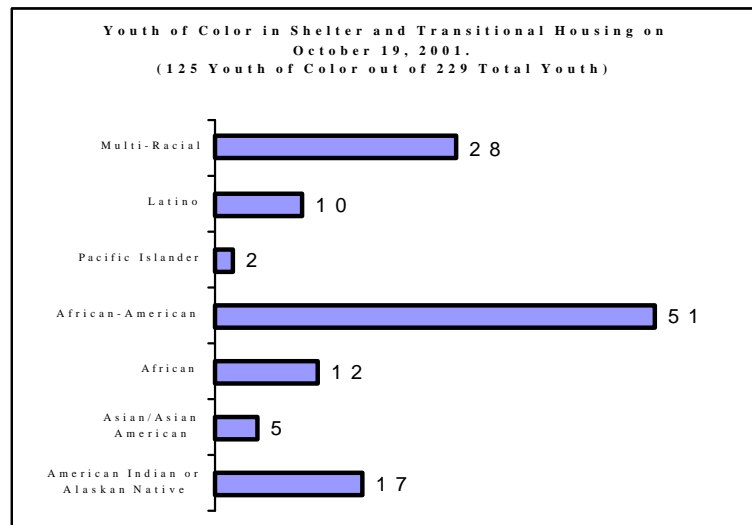


Couch Surfing

When a youth leaves or is kicked out of his or her home, he or she will often try to stay with relatives or family friends before resorting to the streets. This is called couch surfing and is a valuable tool to keep kids off the streets. In an attempt to get a preliminary picture of the prevalence of couch surfing we surveyed the Teen Health Centers, School Counselors and Principals of Seattle Public Schools to see if they knew of any youth who were couch surfing. We asked that each school only return one survey so as to get an unduplicated count. This is the first year we have attempted this survey to see if we would get a response. Nine schools responded this year and of those schools 5 reported having a total of 14 youth couch surfing. Though no conclusions can be drawn from this, the response was good enough to try to get a larger sample in 2002 and hopefully use this data to plan effective strategies in supporting families who have couch surfing youth, supporting communities in taking care of kids, and preventing youth from leaving the safety of a home for the danger of the streets.

Race and Ethnicity

Due to the ongoing problem of institutional racism in our community and country, people of color are over-represented in homelessness. Youth and young adults in housing services are no exception. 54% of the youth in services are youth of color. Below is the detail of youth of color who use shelter and transitional housing services.



Concluding summary

The 2001 One Night Count estimates 7,350 people are homeless in King County on any given night.

We can be certain that, on October 19, 2001 there were 4,671 homeless individuals in shelters or transitional programs in our region. In addition, 1,454 women, men and children were sleeping or wandering outdoors --- unsheltered --- in Seattle alone. King County officials estimate that an additional 1,200 to 1,300 homeless individuals were living, unsheltered, in the balance of the county.

The One Night Count total for 2001 has increased significantly from the year 2000 estimate of 6,500 hundred homeless people. As this report shows, *the majority of this increase consists of people identified during the Street Count, meaning they were without safe overnight accommodations*. The Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless is very concerned about the growing number of people trying to survive outside without so much as a roof over their head.

The Seattle King County Coalition for the Homeless hopes that this snapshot in time picture of who is homeless in King County can help create the political and public will to:

- guarantee the availability of safe shelter for all
- increase the supply of affordable housing, and
- ensure all homeless people and those at-risk receive relevant support services.

Methodology: One Night County 2001

Street Count

At 2:30 A.M. on October 19, 2001, 140 volunteer counters left from downtown Seattle, while another 60 volunteers left from Ballard, with a goal to count individuals living unsheltered on the streets in downtown Seattle, and some surrounding neighborhoods (See map in APPENDIX).

Counting teams, comprised of approximately 3-6 volunteers, spread out over their region on foot, and counted the number of people who were homeless and living on the street, in alleys, doorways, cars and in makeshift shelters, returning with their tallied numbers by 5:30 A.M.

The figures from each team's tally sheets were collated to discern the total count. The results of the street count were then available by 6 A.M. for the media and elected officials who were present at the count's end. Press releases were FAXed to other media during that morning

Shelter and Transitional Housing Survey

On October 19, 164 programs providing shelter, transitional housing or hotel/motel vouchers, completed a comprehensive survey which had been sent to each program two weeks prior to the One Night Count.

The survey encompassed information relating to the individuals and families they served that night. Service providers documented information including total numbers served, sex, age race/ethnicity and language of those served, as well as information relating to veteran status, disabilities and income. Also collected was information regarding prior living situations, reason and duration of homelessness, and the number of incidences of homelessness in the past two years.

Appendix A: Participating agencies in the Survey

Acres of Diamonds	Mentor Health Northwest
Archdiocesan Housing Authority	Multi-Service Center
Auburn Youth Resources	Muslim Housing Services
Bread of Life Mission	New Beginnings
Catholic Community Services	Northwest AIDS Foundation
Central Area Motivation Program	Pregnancy AID of Washington
Children's Home Society of Washington	Providence Hospitality House
Church Council of Greater Seattle	Recovery Centers of King County
CityTeam Ministries	The Salvation Army
Community Psychiatric Clinic	Sand Point Community Housing Association
Compassion House	Seattle Children's Home
Consejo Counseling and Referral Services	Seattle Emergency Housing Services
Domestic Abuse Women's Network (DAWN)	Seattle Housing and Resource Effort (SHARE)
Development Association of the Goodwill Baptist Church	Seattle Indian Center
Downtown Emergency Service Center	Sojourner Place
Eastside Domestic Violence Program	St. Vincent de Paul
El Centro de la Raza	Street Youth Ministries
Exodus Housing	TeenHope
Family Services	Trinity House
First Avenue Service Center	Union Gospel Mission
First Place School	United Indians of all Tribes
Fremont Public Association	United States Mission
Friends of Youth	University Temple Methodist Church
Hopelink	Victory Outreach
Immanuel Cascade Emergency Services	Vision House
Interaction Transition	Way Back Inn
Jewish Family Services	YMCA
Jubilee Women's Center	YouthCare
Kent Youth and Family Services	YWCA
King County Veterans Program	
Kirkland Interfaith Transition in Housing	
Low Income Housing Institute	
Lutheran Compass Center	
Mamma's Hands	

Appendix B: Street Count Participating Organizations

Operation Nightwatch
Belltown Department of Social and Health Services
Low Income Housing Institute
United Way of King County
Downtown Emergency Service Center
Archdiocesan Housing Authority
Aloha Inn
Friends of Youth
Plymouth Housing Group
Real Change Homeless Newspaper
REACH
Compass Center
City of Seattle Human Service Department
Partnership for Youth
First Place
Seattle Pacific University students
Saint Vincent de Paul
University of Washington students
Seattle Police Department Community Service Officers
Crisis Clinic
Ballard Family Center
Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
Orion Youth Center
Church of Mary Magdalene
Gethsemane Lutheran Church

Appendix C: Additional Resources

National Websites

Housing and Homelessness Issues

- National Alliance to End Homelessness, www.naeh.org
- National Coalition for the Homeless, www.nationalhomeless.org
- National Housing Trust Fund, www.nhtf.org
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development, www.hud.gov

Washington State Websites

Housing and Homelessness Issues

- Washington State Office of Community Development, www.ocd.wa.gov
- Washington State Coalition for the Homeless, <http://home.earthlink.net/~wsch/>
- Housing Development Consortium, www.hdc-kingcounty.org

Local Policy Papers and Reports

- 2001 King County Benchmark Report, <http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/orpp/benchmrk/bench01/>
- Homeless Child Care Needs Assessment: February 2000
Metro-King County, <http://www.metrokc.gov/dchs/csd/childcare/HomelessChildCare.pdf>
- NW Jobs Gap Study: Searching for Work that Pays, Washington State June 2001, <http://depts.washington.edu/npc/NWJobGapWA.pdf>
- Street Youth Task Force Pilot Project Needs Assessment, Interim Report
King County, October 2001
- WA. State DSHS: Homeless Families Report <http://www-app2.wa.gov/dshs/rda/>
- WA. State DSHS, Risk and Protection Profile for Substance Abuse Prevention and Planning in King County, May 2001 <http://www-app2.wa.gov/dshs/rda/rc/>
- 2001 Washington State Data Book, Office of Financial Management, www.ofm.wa.gov/databook/index.htm
- Impact of Government Regulations and Fees on Housing Costs, May 2001, Washington Research Council, <http://www.researchcouncil.org/Briefs/2001/ePB01-18/Growth9.htm>
- Washington State 2002 Competitiveness Report, a joint study <http://www.researchcouncil.org/ace/washace2002/washace2002report.htm>